

PSYCHOLOGY 100 - INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**Spring, 2026****INSTRUCTOR:** Frank T. McAndrew, SMC E129, fmcandre@knox.edu**Time & Place:** LECTURE: 6th period MWF, Room E-117 SMAC.LAB: TH, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, or 6th Period, Room as Assigned**TEXTBOOK:** Introduction to Psychology (12th Ed), by James W. Kalat

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CLASS WEB PAGE: <https://www.frankmcandrew.com/copy-of-psychology-100-online-1>**LAB TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**

Karma Plomin, Sarah Finley, Archishaa Dhingra, Ha Phuong Nguyen

OFFICE HOURS: I will be available in my office on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. and on MWF during 5th period. I will also be glad to schedule one-on-one meetings or video conferences with you if my office hours do not line up with your schedule - just send me an email and we will set something up.

PLEASE GET IN THE HABIT OF CHECKING YOUR EMAIL DAILY! - This is the primary way in which I will communicate with you.

GOALS OF THE COURSE

Welcome to Psychology 100! I sincerely hope that you have a good experience this term and that at the end you think it was time well spent, whether this is the only psychology course that you will take or just the first of many. There are a number of goals that I have for this course.

I would like you to become a more sophisticated observer of human behavior. By this I mean that you will learn to think about humans scientifically, relying on data and evidence for your beliefs as you come to understand the limitations and pitfalls of intuition. In other words, I would like you to become more skeptical in almost all ways. Throughout your life, you will be regularly exposed to outrageous, unsubstantiated claims about products, health remedies, and various other phenomena, and I hope that as a result of taking this course you will be at least a little bit better at evaluating the quality of evidence used in support of such arguments.

In addition to my informal goals, every course that you take is designed to help you acquire formal knowledge and skills. This course will help you achieve the following departmental learning goals:

1) Apply the scientific method to studying the mind, the brain, and behavior.

- 2) Understand the basic theoretical approaches and classic empirical findings of psychology.
- 3) Effectively communicate orally and through grammatically correct writing.

The written lab reports address goals #1, #2, & #3 above. The textbook reading and lectures address goals #1 & #2; the exams are designed to assess how well you have achieved the first two learning goals.

GRADING

Your grade will be based upon the average percentage score of your FOUR BEST test scores and your SIX highest lab report scores. In other words, I will drop your lowest test score and also your lowest TWO lab report scores. I will be translating lab report grades into scores that will get averaged in with the test scores, and collectively the six lab reports will carry the same weight as two tests. Letter grades will be as follows:

A = 93-100%; A- = 90-92%; B+ = 88-89%; B = 83-87%; B- = 80-82%; C+ = 78%-79%; C = 73-77%; C- = 70-72%; D+ = 68-69%; D = 63-67%; D- = 60-62%; F = <60%.

THE TESTS

Most of the students in PSYC 100 this term are first-year students, and many of these students did not have a normal four years of high school. Even though you have two terms of college under your belt, many of you may not have taken a class quite like PSYC 100. Consequently, I do not want the tests to be unnecessarily stressful, so I am making some accommodations that you should find helpful. So, here is the deal with the tests.

**There will be five tests, and I will be dropping your lowest test score.*

**All tests will be multiple choice*

**To help you get used to how it all works, I will ease you into the testing by having the first two tests be shorter and cover less material than the later tests.*

The tests will **NOT be open-book/open-note tests, so be sure to study well in advance!*

You *must* take the test in the Science-Math Center during the regular class period. You cannot communicate or collaborate with other students while you are taking a test – nor can you use any electronic devices. I will consider these things to be Honor Code Violations.

The tests will be based primarily on the textbook, but I will also include information from my class lectures that may not be in the textbook.

THE LABS (Thursdays)

Every Thursday you will attend a laboratory section led by an upper-class psychology major. **YOU MUST ATTEND THE LAB SECTION THAT YOU ARE REGISTERED FOR.** During each session, you will engage in a brief demonstration or experiment. The experiment will provide the data needed to write up the lab report for that week, and it will be due on the following Thursday. There will be eight lab experiments. All reports will be typed, double spaced, and written in the

appropriate format. The quality of your writing WILL be a contributing factor in the grade that you receive.

While the length and format will differ a bit from lab to lab, the average report will be about two or three double-spaced pages in length.

LAB REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE. If you do not hand in a report on the Thursday that it is due, you will receive a score of zero, so be sure to pay close attention to the date on which each report is due. EACH LAB REPORT will be graded on a ten-point scale, and the average percentage on your lab reports will be weighted the same as TWO test scores in your final grade. I will drop your LOWEST TWO LAB REPORT GRADES so that only six lab grades will be figured into your final grade in the course.

My Policy for Using AI in Your Writing

I would prefer that you develop skill as a writer without the aid of AI technology. Having said this, I recognize that the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, Writesonic, etc is the wave of the future and that I would be fighting a losing battle by totally banning the use of these programs by my students.

So, here is how I will handle this in PSYC 100. At the end of each one of your written lab reports, please include a section under the heading “Use of AI in this Assignment.” In this section of your paper, please identify exactly which writing tool(s) you used and explain exactly how you used them. I am not putting any particular restrictions on how you use them, but I want you to be completely transparent and honest with me about how you wrote the paper. I will only consider something an Honor Board violation if you claim that you *did not* use any AI tools and I then discover that you did. (And this is not really very hard for me to figure out!) If you honestly did *not* use any AI tools, this section will be very short – just one sentence certifying that no AI tools were used when you wrote the lab report.

How will you submit the lab reports?

There are five lab assistants who are helping me to manage the labs for this class. Each one of these individuals is a bright, upper-level psychology student. They will be helping me manage and grade the lab exercises and reports. You will submit a paper copy of your lab report directly to the TA to whom you have been assigned. To figure out who your Lab TA is, check the Psyc 100L lab section that you are enrolled in and find your teaching assistant's name and email address below:

PSYC 100L (Section A, 2nd period) – Ha Phuong Nguyen (hanguyen@knox.edu)

PSYC 100L (Section B, 3rd period) – Karma Plomin (kplomin@knox.edu)

PSYC 100L (Section C, 5th period) – Sarah Finley (smfinley@knox.edu)

PSYC 100L (Section D, 6th period) – Archishaa Dhingra (ardhingra@knox.edu)

TOPICS & CLASS SCHEDULE**READINGS**

Wednesday, March 25 – First Day of Class; Introduction to the Course

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Thursday, March 26 – Lab Sections Meet and Get Organized

Friday, March 27 - Introduction to the Field of Psychology

Chapter 1

Monday, March 30 – Scientific Methods in Psychology

Chapter 2

Wednesday, April 1 – Scientific Methods in Psychology

Chapter 2

Thursday, April 2 - LAB #1 –

Drawing Conclusions from Experimental Data: A Mirror Drawing Experiment.

Friday, April 3 – Biological Psychology

Chapter 3

TEST #1 (Monday, April 6)

CHAPTERS 1 & 2

Wednesday, April 8 – Biological Psychology

Chapter 3

Thursday, April 9 - LAB #2 – Using *PsycInfo* to Find Psychology Research Articles

Friday, April 10 – Biological Psychology

Chapter 3

Monday, April 13 – Learning: Operant & Classical Conditioning

Chapter 6

TEST #2 (Wednesday, April 15)

CHAPTER 3

Thursday, April 16 - LAB #3 – Sniffy the Virtual Rat

Friday, April 17 – Learning: Operant & Classical Conditioning

Chapter 6

Monday, April 20 - Learning: Operant & Classical Conditioning

Chapter 6

Wednesday, April 22 – Intro to Cognitive Psychology & Perception

Module 4.3 (pp. 121-135)

Thursday, April 23 - LAB #4 – The Stroop Effect

Friday, April 24 – Perception, Attention & Pattern Recognition

pp. 245-250

Monday, April 27 - Memory

Chapter 7

Wednesday, April 29 – Memory

Chapter 7

Thursday, April 30 - LAB #5 – Comparing Strategies of Memory Retrieval

Friday, May 1 – Consciousness Chapter 10

TEST # 3 (Monday, May 4) CHAPTERS 6 & 7; & pp. 121-135 & pp. 245-250

Wednesday, May 6 - Consciousness Chapter 10

Thursday, May 7 - LAB # 6 – Nonverbal Communication

Friday, May 8 – Social Psychology Chapter 13

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Chapter 5
 (Please Note! I will not be lecturing on Chapter 5 – Human Development – but you still need to study it as it will be on the next test)

Monday, May 11 - Emotion Chapter 12

Wednesday, May 13 – Personality Chapter 14

Thursday, May 14 – LAB #7 – The Dark Triad Personality

Friday, May 15 – Personality Chapter 14

TEST # 4 (Monday, May 18) CHAPTERS 5, 10, 13

Wednesday, May 20 – Abnormal Psychology: Disorders/Treatment Chapter 15

Thursday, May 21 – LAB #8 – A Case Study in Schizophrenia

Friday, May 22 – Abnormal Psychology: Disorders/Treatment Chapter 15

Monday, May 25 – Abnormal Psychology: Disorders/Treatment Chapter 15

Wednesday, May 27 – Catch-Up Day

Thursday, May 28 – MAKEUP LAB DATE IF FLUNK DAY CAUSED PROBLEMS!**TEST #5 (During Scheduled Final Exam Time – CHAPTERS 12, 14, & 15)**

BONUS POINTS FOR LAB ATTENDANCE: Each week, your TA will be taking attendance at the beginning of your lab period. If you have perfect attendance at the lab sessions this term, you will receive bonus points in the form of 5% being added onto the grade of the lowest test score that I am counting toward your final grade. The lab meeting during the first week of the term will NOT count, as many students may have added the course late.

PARTICIPATION IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

By participating in research projects being conducted in our department, you can earn bonus points (extra credit). You are free to participate in as many studies as you like, and you will earn one point for each half-hour of research that is an online survey and two points for each half hour of research that requires showing up at a laboratory. However, no one will earn more than **8%** points through research participation. If you volunteer to participate in an experiment and fail to show up, you will no longer be eligible to participate in research for extra credit.